



Health Policy Briefing

May 13, 2019

House Passes First Drug Pricing Bills of 116th Congress

The House of Representatives unanimously passed two bills aimed at lowering drug prices last week. The legislation aims to improve transparency by updating federal drug patent databases to make it easier for manufacturers to access information on existing drug and biologic patents to increase generic and biosimilar competition. It was the first time the full House chamber considered the issue of drug prices this congress. The **Orange Book Transparency Act of 2019** (H.R. 1503) would codify current requirements to list drug substance patents, drug product patents, and method-of-use patents, as well as other patents at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) discretion, in the Orange Book, which lists patents related to approved drugs. The bill also requires manufacturers to notify the FDA of any legal decision finding a patent invalid; the agency would be required to promptly remove those patents from the database, as long as there is no appeal. The **Purple Book Continuity Act of 2019** (H.R. 1520) would codify the requirement to list the name of the biologic, date of licensing, studies necessary for biosimilar applications, and withdrawal or suspension of licensure in the Purple Book, the reference guide to biological products. It would also require the FDA to make recommendations of what patents should be included in the Purple Book going forward, and to make the guide publicly available in a searchable electronic format. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) does not expect either bill to measurably lower drug costs. House Democrats plan to bring several additional health care bills to the floor this month, packaging a series of drug pricing proposals with measures to strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the individual health insurance market. The drug pricing bills would be used to offset the cost of the ACA legislation. The bill, H.R. 987—Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act, is expected to be considered by the full House this week. The package includes the text of the BLOCKING Act (H.R. 938), the Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act (H.R. 1499), and the CREATES Act (H.R. 965).

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Finance Leaders Consider OOP Cap

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) has said that he is working with Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) on a bipartisan plan to cap out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses for prescription drugs in the Medicare program. The two lawmakers are reportedly also in discussions about drug pricing and incentive changes in Medicare Part D, Part B, and Medicaid.

President Pushes Importation Proposal

President Trump has endorsed a proposal from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) that would allow the state to import prescription drugs from Canada. In order for Florida's importation policy to go into effect, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would have to certify that the imported drugs would be safe, a move that no HHS secretary has made before. Key officials have recently raised concerns with the safety of the importation plan, including the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.).

House Passes Bill to Reverse Sec. 1332 Guidance

The House of Representatives voted last week to reverse a 2018 Trump administration guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that allowed states to waive certain ACA coverage requirements through the Section 1332 state innovation waiver program. The ***Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act*** (H.R. 986) was passed by a vote of 230-183, largely along party lines. Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), John Katko (R-N.Y.), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), and Chris Smith (R-N.J.) voted in support of the bill. The guidance would allow federal subsidies to be provided for association plans or short-term, limited-duration plans that do not have to comply with certain ACA requirements, such as coverage for preexisting conditions. Democrats characterize the guidance as ACA sabotage and argue that it undermines the law's consumer protections and could result in higher premiums in the ACA-compliant market. Republicans contend that the guidance allows for more state flexibility and reduces burdensome regulations, stating that it would increase choice and access to more affordable insurance for individuals whose incomes are too high to receive a federal subsidy. The White House has threatened to veto the bill, and the GOP-controlled Senate is unlikely to consider it.

Labor-HHS Appropriations Legislation Advances

The House Appropriations Committee approved its \$189.2 billion fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies spending bill last week by a 30-23 party-line vote, making it the first appropriations bill to be advanced by the full committee this year. Of note, the bill provides a total of \$41.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) -- an increase of \$2 billion the fiscal year (FY) 2019 level. During the markup, panel Democrats defeated a series of Republican amendments on issues such as funding for Planned Parenthood, Title X family planning programs, and fetal tissue research. The committee adopted by party-line vote an amendment to block spending to implement the Trump administration's recent conscience-rights proposed rule. The White House proposed rule would allow medical professionals and health care providers to deny care based on personal or religious beliefs. Republicans have characterized the measure as a poison-pill rider, and it is highly unlikely that it will be considered in the GOP-controlled Senate. The committee also adopted an amendment to block an expected proposal from the administration to allow states to roll-back a Medicaid benefit providing non-emergency medical transportation services to Medicaid recipients. Lawmakers also adopted an amendment that would increase funding for the Strategic National Stockpile by \$300 million using unobligated money from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Senate has not yet begun work on its version of the spending bill.

Earlier in the week, the House Appropriations Committee also agreed to 302(b) allocations for all twelve of the FY 2020 spending bills by a vote of 30-22. The allocations total \$1.295 trillion in discretionary funding; each appropriations measure would receive increases relative to FY 2019.

Appropriators Release Labor-HHS Committee Report

House appropriators also released its report to accompany the committee's FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. In the report, lawmakers raise concerns about the recent proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would allow health plans to exclude six protected classes of drugs from Medicare Part D formularies and to make greater use of utilization management tools like step therapy and prior authorization. The committee report states that such changes could negatively impact seniors access to Part D drugs and critical therapies for HIV, cancer, and mental illness. It directs CMS to increase the use of electronic prior authorization, require Medicare Advantage (MA) plans to rein in prior authorization requirements, and to issue guidance preventing plans from excluding coverage of services that "that align with evidence-based guidelines and have historically high prior-authorization approval rates." The guidance would also require MA insurers to submit an annual list of things for which they demand prior-authorization to the secretary of the HHS. CMS is also asked to consider testing health benefit designs that eliminate specialty tiers to increase the affordability of gene therapies and biologic treatments, particularly for rare diseases. In a related section, the report asks the administration to consider reducing patient copays and incentivizing providers to increase the utilization of biosimilars in Medicare Part B. The report requests that the administration submit information on prescription drug price changes in government health programs since 2008. Appropriators ask for a list of drugs that have been approved in the past five years that have benefited significantly from government grants or research subsidies. A report on Medicare drug spending, detailing total spending on certain drugs and their net prices, is also requested.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is tasked with studying kratom, a type of plant with the potential to be used as an opioid alternative, despite the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) warnings about the agent's risk of addiction, abuse, and dependence. Appropriators tell HHS that Congress plans to monitor how payment policies are impacting the prescription of opioids instead of non-opioid alternatives, and request that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) evaluate the inpatient bed shortage for mental health and addiction treatment and report back to the Committee.

The report expresses support for recent changes to the country's liver transplantation and distribution system, which could result in more livers being sent to urban areas. Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) has raised concerns about the changes and has called on HHS to delay the policy, which is currently under litigation in federal court.

The committee report includes language regarding medical workforce shortages. It recommends that CMS convene relevant stakeholders to review changes in population health and prepare a report for the Committee. Lawmakers also encourage the HHS secretary to allow teaching clinicians to verify their nurse practitioner and physician assistant student notes during their evaluation rather than having to re-document the information. CMS is also asked to explain how it is evaluating nurse hospital staffing levels.

Collins, Manchin Urge Barr to Reconsider ACA Position

Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) sent a [letter](#) to Attorney General William Barr urging him to reconsider the administration's position that the entire ACA should be struck down. The administration has recently filed its official argument in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of GOP-led states that have called for overturning the law. The case is currently in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The lawmakers argue that the Justice Department has a responsibility to defend the law of the land, and that Congress did not intend to eliminate the entire health care law when repealing the financial penalty associated with the individual mandate. Collins and Manchin state that Congress can pass legislation to improve "the parts of the law that aren't working," but express concerns about the number of people that would be at risk of losing their health insurance should the ACA be overturned.

President Urges Congress to Act on Surprise Medical Bills

President Trump has called on Congress to address the issue of surprise medical bills and ban the practice of balance billing. The President did not endorse any specific legislation, but instead laid out the administration's [general principles](#) for future legislation, stating that patients should not incur out-of-network costs from hospitals and doctors for emergency services, and that patients should not get out-of-network bills from a provider they did not pick. In cases of nonemergency treatment, patients should be informed in advance if any of the care will be out-of-network and the costs that they will face. The White House also specifies that any legislative solution should not increase federal health care expenditures. The position statement does not specify how billing disputes between insurers and providers should be solved, but White House officials have raised concerns about the potential disruption caused by arbitration and the patient abuses that could result. Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), who is leading a bipartisan working group on the issue, has spoken to the positive track record of arbitration on a state level, but has said that he is also open to other ideas. Cassidy, along with Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), are still in the process of determining in what direction to take the bill. Following the President's speech, leadership from all three House committees with health jurisdiction released bipartisan statements with the intent to work together on the issue. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-Ore.) stated that they are working together on bipartisan solution to protect patients, which they hope to announce soon. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) told the President that he hopes to present a bill in July.

The GOP Doctors caucus organized a bipartisan meeting of doctors in Congress last week to discuss the issue of surprise insurance gaps and the corresponding New York state law. The lawmakers met with representatives of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), American Medical Association (AMA), American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and Dr. Andrew Kleinman, a plastic surgeon who was involved in passage and implementation of the New York surprise billing legislation.

FDA Finalizes Interchangeability Guidance

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has finalized guidance on the development of interchangeable biologics. The final document permits manufacturers to provide a justification to the agency if they do not believe switching studies are necessary to test whether patients moving from the brand biologic to the biosimilar fare the same as patients on just one version of the drug. Additionally, such studies will not be required for treatments that are only intended to be administered to a patient once. For companies that do conduct switching studies, the guidance allows them to use a non-U.S. reference biologic in some instances. The FDA pointed to the guidance's specific potential to bring competition to the insulin market with the development of interchangeable insulin. There are currently no approved interchangeable products on the market.

Judge Rules Against Cuts to 340B

A federal court has ruled that the Trump administration's move to cut nearly 30 percent from the 340B drug discount program is unlawful. The lawsuit was brought by the American Hospital Association, America's Essential Hospitals, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and three hospitals. HHS has until August 5 to submit a status report to U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras about how the department is remedying the situation.

Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Markups

House Committee on Rules meeting on H.R. 5—Equality Act; H.R. 312—Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act; H.R. 987—Strengthening Health Care and Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Act; 4:30 p.m., H-313 Capitol; May 14

House Committee on Ways and Means hearing “The Economic and Health Consequences of Climate Change;” 10:00 a.m., 1100 Longworth Bldg.; May 15

House Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services hearing “Examining the Older Americans Act: Promoting Independence and Dignity for Older Americans;” 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn; May 15

House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Health hearing “Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for the Veterans Health Administration;” 2:00 p.m., 210 Capitol Bldg.; May 15

House Ways and Means Committee hearing “Overcoming Racial Disparities and Social Determinants in the Maternal Mortality Crisis;” 10:00 a.m., 1100 Longworth Bldg.; May 16

House Committee on Oversight and Reform hearing “HIV Prevention Drug: Billions in Corporate Profits after Millions in Taxpayer Investments;” 10:00 a.m., 2154 Rayburn Bldg.; May 16

House Budget Committee hearing “Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer Health Care System;” 10:00 a.m., 210 Cannon Bldg.; May 22

Recently Introduced Health Legislation

H.R.2519 — To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2527 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to condition receipt by States (and political subdivisions and public entities of States) of preventive health services grants on the establishment of a State requirement for students in public elementary and secondary schools to be vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

S.Res.190 — A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2019, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Submitted in the Senate, considered, and passed without amendment and with a preamble by Voice Vote.

S.1323 — A bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to collect information under Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program related to social determinants of health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1334 — A bill authorizing a program to promote innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate care for individuals presenting at emergency departments with acute mental health illness; Sponsor: Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.356 — Expressing support for designation of May as “National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month”; Sponsor: Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.Res.357 — Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 986) to provide that certain guidance related to waivers for State innovation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2157) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Shalala, Donna E. [D-FL-27]; Committees: House - Rules

H.Res.359 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day; Sponsor: Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]; Committees: House - Education and Labor

H.R.2536 — To repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Flores, Bill [R-TX-17]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Education and Labor, Ways and Means, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Rules, House Administration, Appropriations, Budget

H.R.2552 — To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prevent certain payment reductions for clinic visit services furnished at excepted off-campus outpatient departments of a provider under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.2556 — To provide for an extension of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of medical disability examinations by contract physicians; Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2557 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the recruitment of physicians in the Department of Veterans Affairs; Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2564 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special enrollment period under Medicare for individuals enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Education and Labor

H.R.2568 — To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study and report on the prevalence of cholangiocarcinoma in veterans of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

S.1340 — A bill to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Senate - Foreign Relations

S.1343 — A bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers; Sponsor: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1350 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to limit the liability of health care professionals who volunteer to provide health care services in response to a disaster; Sponsor: Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.362 — Expressing support for designation of May 2019 as “Health and Fitness Month”; Sponsor: Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2569 — To provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families; Sponsor: Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Judiciary

H.R.2573 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]; Committees: House - Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce

H.R.2580 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to deem drugs or other substances that act as mu opioid receptor agonists to be in schedule I, subject to exceptions for substances intended for legitimate medical or research use, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Judiciary

H.R.2581 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.2582 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to require the Attorney General to make procurement quotas for opioid analgesics publicly available, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Judiciary

H.R.2584 — To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings; Sponsor: Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]; Committees: House - Budget

H.R.2587 — To require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to develop standards for a “Reef Safe” label for sunscreen; Sponsor: Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2588 — To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the effects of oxybenzone and octinoxate on the environment and public health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources

H.R.2594 — To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payments for certain rural health clinic and Federally qualified health center services furnished to hospice patients under the Medicare program; Sponsor: Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means

H.R.2599 — To amend the Public Health Service Act to require State educational agencies and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy and school threat assessment team policy, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2602 — To amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers; Sponsor: Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2606 — To make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; Sponsor: Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]; Committees: House - Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce

S.1357 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1361 — A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings; Sponsor: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]; Committees: Senate - Budget

S.1362 — A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1365 — A bill to provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families; Sponsor: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1366 — A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require the Attorney General to make procurement quotas for opioid analgesics publicly available, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary

S.1371 — A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the effects of oxybenzone and octinoxate on the environment and public health, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Environment and Public Works

S.1374 — A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1375 — A bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to develop standards for a “Reef Safe” label for sunscreen; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Commerce, Science, and Transportation

S.1379 — A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

H.Res.365 — Expressing support for the designation of May 10, 2019, as “World Lupus Day”; Sponsor: Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]; Committees: House - Oversight and Reform

H.Res.366 — Expressing support for designation of May as Stroke Awareness Month; Sponsor: Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.Res.368 — Expressing support for the designation of the week of May 6 through May 12, 2019, as National Nurses Week; Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2608 — To require the testing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2620 — To advance treatment and cures for blindness and other retinal conditions and to promote competitiveness in the United States through a pilot program to increase funding for translational research, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2627 — To assist survivors of stroke and other debilitating health occurrences in returning to work; Sponsor: Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]; Committees: House - Education and Labor

H.R.2628 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide administrative support to providers of dental care who provide such care to veterans that is not furnished under such title, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program for the provision of dental care to certain veterans, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2629 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Rep. Brindisi, Anthony [D-NY-22]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

H.R.2644 — To direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the state of the internet-connected devices industry in the United States; Sponsor: Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.2645 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to newborn children; Sponsor: Rep. Lee, Susie [D-NV-3]; Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

S.1384 — A bill to reform prescription drug pricing and reduce out-of-pocket costs by ensuring consumers benefit from negotiated rebates; Sponsor: Sen. Romney, Mitt [R-UT]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1391 — A bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1392 — A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of suicide prevention coordinators of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]; Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

S.1399 — A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs; Sponsor: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1400 — A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to preserve the option of States to implement health care marketplaces, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]; Committees: Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S.1404 — A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to address the increased burden that maintaining the health and hygiene of infants and toddlers places on families in need, the resultant adverse health effects on children and families, and the limited child care options available for infants and toddlers who lack sufficient diapers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]; Committees: Senate - Finance

S.1416 — A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]; Committees: Senate - Judiciary